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MAY/IUNE DEPARTMENTS

VOLUME Mas Watarnhe is a central figure in the develop-

WECANDOIT"

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USGF Editorial

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ment of the U.S. men's support and sensor program McDONALD'S

The US's Burndy Johnson and Vitali Mannach the all around tries at this page 24







The U.S 's Wendy Brace and Is fine from China were the sentence combinaWONDER

Patrick Kirksey is one of national program Karkway following the 1999 McDon-

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the recently placed third in Classified Ads International Mixed Parts Page 44

the perliminary round of the McDozald's American

Olympian Chelle Stock is

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DENNESS OF A SOURS AND SURCEPTION INQUIES in order to convergence indexes with A CHMANICS May one writer of design of without should be analysis to sight works.

The surce of the surce of

NISSEN FORCED TO CLOSE A Lesson Must Be Learned

By Mike Jacki

MISSEN

Deur Nassen Promots As note known, we have been desails amobied with the sport of

seem the sport grow and flowrish at almost errory level. Hopeful we have contributed to that growth, not only by analong the boppingment, but by helping promote the sport on well.

skywicketing assurance come have exacted their tell. These factor have creatily add to the denies of mony of the rethind's scholaria and intercologous cyromous pregnants printing granular claim and open must exaculate there. Our ability to sell Notem equip ment to our traditional medicus has been solvenety a blocked

Nation Corporation. In Agril 1999, the company will insize all beases sortwists Given our close relationship with the appart for such a long person of these relationship with the appart for ranks. Economically, we had no other choice. There you keey your support and understanding.

Charlasting

Charles Nikers CC

Charles Nikers President

be Nissenstory is a great example
of the way entirely and tadio-

try created a tremendously suc-

resaful American sports marro

Lecturing concern. From the

of George Numers and his consequent

manufacturer in the World. The com-

fine of physical education products.

ion took the leadership role in the is-

community in the form of chines, work-

staff of top gymnastics esperts. Not only did Nasen do all these things, but, and most importantly, they manufactured a state-ofthe-art product time withogupment that was always on the leading odgo of both technology and function. Their

chrome-plated, portable, interchangeable, multichangeable, multipurpose, easy set-up
and storage products were intrinsially
responsible for the
growth and driveopment of gymnade in this country
and worklookin

ties in this country and world-wide. When accident and personal injury is wasses to the late prevalent in the late 80's and throughout the 72's and 80's.

Nissen was there too, bearing the burden of products lisbility brigation and the in-oblity and locking of courts and juries to

from the alfifthy to pay. Codirary to what occurred in the counts and the awards given by jury or by settlement during all those years of inventils, the fact is that Nosen equipment was never proved to have faired. It always did what it was sold to do, and has continued to do so for nearly fifty years. Nissen's problem was aprivan equip-

ment problem. On the contrary, Nissen's problem was that, as a well managed and successful business, they were simply in a better position to pay. The arony of the demase of this great

tiss but for the country, is that many of the propie why pushed the Nison Corporation to incventual end by teathying against the company at sevents bying against the company at sevents possible the following through guerning to call the company and sale Kitsen to supply frat e significant to matel, give a rised dataset weekshop, perform seems of sevents on a sale. Area, in read of six show, the Nison Corporation was usually there, without hesitation, to oblige.

white a few people may have gained personally from their actions, our sport out and our future have suffered a great olso. The Nomen Corporation his been extra the seed and t

something modes to be learned here.

Care sport weary langue, very a spect of the state of coursport, stringents and too the coursport of the

statistics which is a structure to that allow us to coin. It is not included the within a club or within a group right care a coin and the coin of the coin and t

will fouch all of us. We are deeply saddeced by this travesty. Curbourtiel thrukes must go out to all the people who worked so hard to make the Nissen Corporation what it was. Our sport will not be the some without them. Nissen has served the sport well. It is unforturate that many of our own people were put this to ocheal the same couries.

USA Gymnastics May/Jan



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U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

Phoehe Mills & Dan Hauden attempt to defend their 1988 titles!

ne of the most important cymnastics events of 1999 and Torre Dimas. will be the U.S. Champsonshaps. This will determine the 1989 Junior and Senior Close to 100 of the top U.S. gyrmausts will compete in the four day event. In ify through the U.S. CLASSIC and AMERICAN CLASSIC Competitions Themen qualify through Regional Zone

The U.S. National Team will be deterthe U.S Chemptorships On the men's safe, there are 22 spots contlable - 12 for the Service National

Team and 10 for the Sentor Developare 20 spots available for the Sensor U.S. National Team members are elicible to represent the U.S. in interna-

World Championships And, without a doubt the World Chammonships Comnetition will be the biggest gymnustics event of 1986

be selected at the U.S. Champtonships. pure will be determined. The women's all-around champson for 1988. Phoebe Mills will attempt to defend her telebut should face stiff competition from Johnt Bangerter, and fellow "MCDown-After feeling to make the '88 Observer comebuck. Olympions Lance Ringrold, curry and Tom Schlesinger, will also make a run for the men's title. Other controders are Deonis Handen, Scott

Burr, Patrick Kirlssey, Tjin Ryan, Emilio Marreys, Mark Warburton, Conrad

Voorsanger, Mark McKsenson, Jeff Dow there will also determine who portsonates in the DSCF's newborrented

Team '92' processes. In 1969, the Fedletes with approximately \$250,000 in direct cash invisions subsidies. The ton the Championships will be eligible to was designed to assist gymnasts with continue for those athletes to continue

twaming-The cummasts who firsth first in the

eible to receive up to \$16,000 during the This is a competition you won't want

to miss! It will be held in Moneyloston

you can't be there, watch it on the NBC U.S. Champ SCHEDULE Friday, July 7 Men's Compa

Friday, July 7 Women's Con

Saturday, July 8 2:00 p.m.* Men's Ontion

Saturday, July 8 7:00 p.m.* Women's Ont

Sunday, July 9



Mike Jacki I man Peszek

Rhythmic Program

Nors Ditrel Women's Program Kathy Kelly

Men's Program Administrator MONRO OF DIRECTORS



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Junior Olympic program.

GO USA

some other small kids like me Myname is Ali Eslami. I'm that have the same dream. 8 years old and a class III gymnast at New England vorite eymnast is Tim I'm tired of

good the Soviet gymnasticsand that's why I hours a week in

three nice and coaches that are helping me over I think about the words he spoke, it makes me work My disease is that one day harder to reach my coals Ali Eslami

expresses in the world and I

PATIENCE alone. I just hope there are

vanced class III.

hove my sights love to think as an optional senson Last night I will

poem. I found it were beloful, especially when I was next

on beam. I hope it will belo He Whenother gyrmusts with a goal as at has belowd me.



PATIENCE Patience is a man's greatest

virtue. Or so the saying goes. A symmast must have asid it. for a gymnast surely knows

Discouragement runs high, And at times, the very best This virtue pessed her by throbbing.

When hands are rinned and When every muscle's sore, Con a gyrmanat still have policyce. To limp back in for more?

Can you stall have futh in Can you conquer part,

When someone else does You've tried so long to do. Can you feel really glad

And not just pity for you?

And when surveys seems

Your efforts all in your. Can you force yourself to

Then maybe someday, you'll That it's now your turn to

Απαπτετουι



STEROID AWARENES I wanted to thank you for

the two-part story on anapens that I was writing a research paper on anabolic steroids and your articles

Chois Hotwagner USA Cympastics Moultant 1989

PROUD PARENT

and All Mills are both 10 wars old Gymnastics Center Even at competacompete against each other, their

friendship is apparent They cheer for one another as well as Christi Mitchell, their coach. the girls. Her guidance and them make the jump from Class IV Compulsanes to Class III Optionals without much difficulty. Their first but enevable: Tarve and Ali

zirls there for one another and ensity being together. They truly are a beam will continue to bring them many more memories to

Parmela Millis

Term and All's teammates

are Kristin Harmon, Desired

Carrion, Abby Sly, Britiany

Runo, Jessica Goodman-Tay-

SAFETY CERTIFICATION TESTING

Scheduled Sessions Saturday, May 13, 1989

Greenberg, NC - 12:30 - 6:30 p.m. North Carolina Gymrastics Academy 1900-G Fairfux Road Greenberg, NC 27:07 - 915-852-8852 Carone Devotas: Michael Broots

Ceurse Centact: Bill Sharm - 979-882-1882 Sunday, May 21, 1989 Clearwater, Florida - 910 a.m. - 400 p.m.

521 Gathrone Bird. Clearwriter, FL 39630 513-147-6661

Wednesday, May 31, 1989 New Branswick, NJ - 300 - 1000 p.m.

Sememer, NJ 201-860-0000 Course Director Cothy Finkel - 201-263-1305 This course will be conducted irrenducity price to the USGF Warner's Computatory

Thursday, Sept. 14th and Sunday, Sept. 17, 1989 Paladelpha, Prenaylean

Amone Notes From City feester and Measurert Road Fidelephos, PA 1933; 225-381-500 The corner will be concluded by several USCF National Safety Centilers during the USCF National Congress:

> Date Times and Locations will all be based as USA GYMNASTICS and LISEF TREBNIGGE. They can also be checked by colling the USEF Department of Solety

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General Points of Information

The test book for the Certification Course is the USGF GYMNASTICS SAFETY MANUAL. This set of reference manual is to be purchased and studied print to course perhapsion.

The course will take approximately set becaus, including the test

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3G Service Chymnic Nationals (W)
American Chasic Nationals (W)
89-92 III Olympic Comp. Workshop (W) Dalba, TX Daldred, CA Golden Sands (M/W) 99-92 JO Olympic Comp. Workship (W) Brother Cup (K) Tokyo, Japan

HINE

LULY

89-92 IO Olympic Compulsory Workshop (W) 19-26 *Aquited in Creat Prix (M/W/R

Oklahogus City, OK.

SEPTEMBER

Jr. Cytressber Comp. (M/W) 22-24 World Chargementures Totals (W) Serviceo, Yugoslavia

OCTOBER Micc Surgerter Colo of Actual Gymnustics

NOVEMBER

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net will be personally directed by Gamp, located 50 miles north of Houston in the Rarelyl & Zeltan Benkeyl. beautiful Sam Houston National Forest.

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Mas Watanabe. Shaping The Men's National Team

"We Can Do It"

BY WARD BLACK

is a central figure in the development of the U.S. men's junior and senior programs. A key backstage player who shied away from the spotlight, but

whose role in shaping the Olympic Championship Team of 1984 has been, by some, understated and misunderstood.

Sout Asses bedome the 1860 More Very invide the Columbo Springs' Olympic He conce again, was lecturing at the lon-- the round-off and flip fign for turn-

bline and circles and flairs on normed "We can do it." Watsnobe reneated serveral turner. "We can do these skille and others, as well as ansone in the world." There were neveral dozen turmore coaches who heard Watanabe caudate wher has been the Innerest Matternal Member terms of the 1060/deminated men's internalismal compo-

realt, and the exponential territors form was very cold for the morning session of lecture/classe. Everyone was wearing full warm-ups and inckets. Some word elouse and recondens to stay years clienc. Watersahe paused and asked the men were so good? Our training gyms m Japan had no best, and my syntees need cold from Doorselve to March Our gyms were much colder than we are here this morning," said Watsrabe. e nere this morning," said witarabe

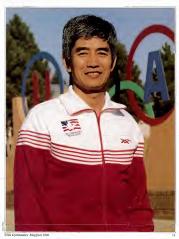
We worked basics — over and over for tion, owing, handstands, technique and strength ... And because of this because were World and Olympic Chargeons" cessful world charnescostup or Otym-

pac team is compulsories. Whichever gueranteed the gold medal... And unce teem plecement veries little during the top placing teams. Optionals are no The temperature in Colorado Springs key to success. These are the dynamics had fallen to new zero-degrees overof international competition. It has been this way for 30 years and this pattern

carried be imposed within assume's ce-The KEY to commulsories? Basics! Without a solid, perfectly controlled allel bors is worthless against the Soviand Bulgarians. Patience, planning and a strong diet

Soviets to dominate men's evenastics wear we did besite. It was too cold to to the Way court more than the improves work on optional tricks and routines had previously.

USA Companies Modules 1965



Mas Watanahe

tambe was introduced to beau sympastics dunna elementary school while byone near Hiroshama, Japan in Mihara City Entering jupier high school at age 12, he par-

tyrnated in both evenosities and track track in order to better

Watanabe selected to attend Kochi Technical High School for two reshigh school for gyrmasto attend college following graduation for which school would best prepare him. Mas' father had died early on in his file, and this made it tro-

o afford sending him on to college swe to excel at gymnastios. At Kochs, he won

the tumbling championship in his first year of high school. He demonstrated a natural ability of swing technique, and in the high school division of Japan's National Sports Festival. At the nasentior year, a triss on one event dropped him in the all-around from the top live to 13th place As Mas prepared to enter the

workforce following high school, his and Physical Education - to seek some college assistance for his talented gymnest. Nittaidel was, and remains, the stable are on the lapanese national team. Waterabe was accepted into the school and was provided with a scholarship I was very surprised and hosored."

recalled Watanabe. "To receive a scholseship, especially to Netwides, was a However, during training camp after tenden while tumbling, and was been-

Even though Mas was injured, he eight other gymnasts. This means that be was placed on the fast-track because of the notential he displayed through-Once released from the hospital, he was back into classes at the college. How-

ever whilestill on crutches. Massimmed

Mas Watanabe demonstrates the proper technique for skills on pommel horse.

his achilles. He didn't know it was toen until after three morths and it was not pettire better. Mas finally sought out another doctor and hosettal. hours of reconstructive surgery. Following the surrery, he haved the doctor

Mas was devastated and remembers. "I would wait until lights out at the hospital and then I would get up and burn doing exercises. I did many evencases without supervision, in secret,

The injury and surprises were such a treumatic expensage for me. Here I was 18 or 19 years old, recruited to the top gymnastics school in the country, and on a very special scholarship. Then, the doctor tells you that you will never this was just unacceptable to me. This was the turning point in my life. I was compete in gymnastics "

Which he did Mas' determination earned him a spot on the lapanese Na-

"Before retiring, I knew gymnastics would be my life's work," said Mas. "I States. I also worked one summer for it was here that I goined a better picture of American symmetries since this was my first apportunity to work with the

America's national team could place higher than 7th or 8th which it had for many the collegate comeffective in their develwas in the vounces vmnasts and coaches ued my emphasis on machet eventually became my summer camp Throughout each war. I was able to work with coaches at for gymnasts at my

comp, and also work NCAA program at U-Cal Berkeley This vision for improvement for the U.S. national program I had early on. In 1977, executive director of the USGF. Frank Bare, hired May as a fulltime employee of the pational office. Watanabe's determination to influence and help the U.S. men's national program had begun a new era for American sympostics. Two years later the U.S. men won a team bronze medal at the World Championships in Ft. Worth.

gymnestics community Over the years, Mas Waterabe has been determined to accomplish many things in his world of and life with gymnostics. Determined to overcome a career-ending many, he became upe of mined to couch outside his native lanan. he set forth to make an invoce on Amerion symmetries. Now, as the American termaned to help suide the U.S. national



mmastics

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in the training gym, during the clin ics, and throughout our interview. May repeated the same phrase again and again, 'We can do it O Max, if you were garing a clinic

for pre-competition young boys and their craches, what would you like them to gain from the climic and take book to

things I would like these the best in the world be besten. A positive direction can be casually I believe if is impor-

without a lot of hype or tent for them to mick a role model in order to begin forming an image in their minds of what onahip athlete. Regardless of country, a role vocate athletes

We could help our entire program if we could instill into our eventsets the value of pursuing the artistic side of pyrmastics. Forly on, wevery important how those skills are

Most importantly, even though our sport is highly disciplined, there must This is the challenge our instructors disciplined instruction and organized

play. Our young symmasts must have a pyful expensence while learning. If they One way our instructors can begin ment in their restruction. They need to

for further development by their stu-As a teacher, it's easy to recognize what's wrong with a skill, but it's diffecult to catch a part of what they did repect of what your students are doing and telling them so the positive manage will everify enhance the students' an-

O Max let's turn our etternom to the SeoulClympics What are your thoughts

into the top plateau of international teams.

A. The term performance in Seoul | compulsories, came under a lot of fire. major competition unless they were in

broad they would be rewarded a little The combination of the draw, the the bearosts and number of 1980 and 1980, and the international inexpen-

to sen on sen to 8th. Why see frombed on 11th is complicated. I hope our team knows that they performed well, and abulituos. O The team results from the top-10

in Secul were - Soviet Union, Rad gary, Romanus, Italy, Canada and ent plotenus? What plotens of brams

A. Gymnostically speaking only game and Japan. South through 10th is a moud-bue including Italy, Romana,

At any given competition, the order of finish could fire-fice

compulsories are so vitally important in for the major competi-

Our goal is south We must first regain a spot in the top-6 in tionals in the last rotation. We can possibly accomplish this within non of our gymnasts, a

O. The Olympic draw in Seoul, which very first rotation for

A: In the upcoming 1989 World Champsonships, those will be no teem competition for compulsories. The indibe moved, by draw, for compulsories with no more than two sympasts per country in any one compulsory ruta-

After the compulsories, a team score will then determine the order for the optional team competition. The top so optional session. Seventh through 17th will compete in the previous session. and so forth. This iscomment could will be a very interesting World Cham-

O: What can we learn from Seoul?

A We must use the Seoul Clympics results to turn the program around to the positive. In order for us to be very

GYMNASTICS CAMPS Girls' Camps

Boys' Camps Camp S. July 24-29, 1989

Make Sakarnata Peter Vidence Dad Obverne Gold Medales

This is what one parcet said. It is critical that Make and Pene



Caren 1: June, 19-23, 1993

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the coaches and the athletes are ready within the men's program. O What types of changes do you foreser?

A: We must not let our team prenaration for the manor compensations fall to chance. We need to be detailed in our strategic preparation. We need to be onparized, educated and unified. Even the little things are important

mean a difference in training from the one stell - but that our individual gymnests and our beam can benefit greatly from training together prior to major competitions. Our teams for the major competitions are sometimes packed too late. Our

gymnasts can only be expected to peak a few times within a competitive seamodificant mosts to must their follow efforts out be achieved at a world chammenship of Olympics Through coarbes education in concenter to be built in Indianapolis, we can

develops more unified, disciplined team O. What are the plans for the new trumpe creter?

A. This new national training center will be a 40,000 source foot facility for ing gym will be available on a full-time basis with a weight training facility, a dance area and access to a fieldhouse for our athletes and coaches. The triting center will be a total complex with a fulltime national coaching staff available satellite regional training gyms in addition to the retional truring center in

I am very excited about this concept and facility. I believe this training certer well have a very positive impact on tion and sunior levels up to and including our son sensor gymnests. We can fell development and notential. We will Now we will be able to offer our senior sympasts a trymendous state-ofthe-art facility, concluing, a place to live

and mornes to lave on.

 $W_{hen he}$ flatly states, "We can do it".

vou better believe that is exactly what will happen.

change in our national effort, and will be a great addition to the OTC facility balte of the new ers of gymnostics we are entening; however, regardless of the quality of the facility, if a what happens

O Following the Seoul Olympics. you've been traveling around the country looking at the various NCAA prostractus. What troughts are you gaming? A Liteda's emportant to understand

the overall men's noture. Each colleweaknesses. In the past, I've concentrated on the runior program, and now I From my observations so far, I can

see how important it is to visit the variwill complete my evaluations once I'm through traveling. This evaluation will reflect what the program design will be

O When I spoke with Ed Burch (Gold Cup - Albuqueroue) during the jurior training camp, he said, "The worst possoble thing that could happen following Scoul would be to push the panic butments in the short-term, but processprogram are the most important." Do

A. Yes, most definitely. We are now in a transition period. This transition This is our long-range goal, and we are sterting this now with our jurger even-Q: What are the short-range goals or the strategy for the Stutteart World

A: The overall strategy, as was planned with the Men's Program Commatice, is to treen our top I2 senace men together as a group for a longer time prepare our gymnasts in the compulso-

First, there will be USA Championships early in July which will give us our ton 12. Then, we will use the USOC's Olympic Festival, World University Games and several training camps to prepare our team for Stotheart.

Generally, we have not placed a big emphasis on the World University Games, but this year is different. We in the U.S. We have an opportunity to improve our world standing before Stuttgart, and we must take advantage

of this in August O In 1983, you left the LISCIF and mixed feelings about leaving, what brought you back to America and the

A. In my heart, I never left. When I left, I had bish hopes I could help suppose the languese program

coach, I didn't have any real authority, which was frustrating Tradition in layer favors the serior people, and I was still too young to assume enough of a voice in the national program I did have other opportunities in reasons, I felt it best to return to Amer-

thing and excessing. The coacling community, Mike Jacks and the USG board of directors all supported my return to the program My heart really never left this country, and even though I was away for four years. I feel today there is no gap I'm happy to be home, and very enthu-With the determination Mas has displayed throughout his life, when he flatly

that is exactly what will happen.

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tion, and more

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Congress in recent years, space is limited for the final banauet. Register early to assure prime seating. The registration desk will be open the

Wednesday, September 13, 12,00 page to 10:00 p.m. 700 a m to 1000 n m. Friday, Scottmber 15. 700 a.m. to 800 p.m. Saturday, September 16, 730 am to 500 am



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Retired. Yet Still Going

Strong

GARRISON-STEVES

By Luan Peszek

hat does a former Olymdo once she retires from gymnaetics? If she's Kelly Garrison-Steves, size remores as busy and dedicated to gym-

nestics as ever. Carrison-Stones is now travelling around the country promoting the speet of sympostics becombacting USGP-examserved classes. The USCE recorder of transportation and an honorarum for Kelly The host organizers are responsible for Kelly's hotel and meal accom-

The clinics promote the sport of everantics and help the children. The Idon't sust go to clubs and talk, Lactually DSGF Women's Program Adminis

ics give extensets, markes, and indoes an opportunity to meet and learn from an athlete of Kelly's califor. "She conwork with each individual evenuast." said Kathy Kelly. She added that the USCF has had an overwhelming posttive response from the sites that have A few of Corrison Steven account link-

months include 1988 Olympian 1984

hosted chases.

Olympic Team alternate, second allaround in 1988 Clympic Trials, twotime NCAA All-Around Champion from the University of Oklahoma, Pan Am Gold Medalist on balance beam, right-time National Team member. three-time World Came Team member, scored the first 1000 in NCAA history

and has been involved with gymnastics experience to the sport of gymnastics and is homing to share the knowledge and skills he has gained with future ath-

letes. According to Sandy Strathdee, who heeted a chrac in Wisshangton. "Kelly makes" a point to have at hasteures special meetrate with each gomenes who period pates at the closic. The girls learn so much from Kelly, and receive an experience of a lifetime."

What does the size Olympic athlete to the heater.

Garrisco-Strven does a vuentry of things at each clairs. She schedules speaking engagements at benquets, pubfer functions, reibertations and/or focal gyens. Her speech topics include nutrition and weight control. Opping copenieries, National Tasmesperancia, moratifico, overall gymnastics posentition, the relationship between you and juvac tassels, the great speech gymnas-

treation, overall agamentatic peecentaborn, the relationship between you and your cusch, the prest speet of grammes too, and her treation from the gymnatics would to the professional orn. The helds beam, foor, and presentation climos, where she can actually give the gymnasts helpful instruction. She also asswers any quastient the gymratio for calcular stay here: "I know if our'll took them new tracks into the or or two, but it by one-folder filem and

prote or others may risk and we record that he here new tracks must have or two, but it by to make the may be ready told them. Own the directs has newly told them. I would be direct to years stated the creation, the dided. During the direct weekers, the studied. During the direct weekers, the rests press conference and processes the spart of agrammatics to the public. "I also stop and public the postures with the kinds. However, I were the postures with the kinds in However, the postures with the kinds in However. tics learning experience for them," said Garmon-Steves.

If the climic is scheduled around a competition, she may be seen handing out the counts.

cet the awards.
Sathy Scilly and "Theenbrewomen's
program is excited and grateful to the
LSGF for their support of the clinios.
She added, "Currison-Steven is making
allusting impression on our future charmposes. She's added so much to our

d sport, not only as an athlete, but also as a role model, teacher and friend 'She's very active with the women's program and has a very positive impact on our program.

Gurently Kelly is active with the

USGFAthletesCouncil. Junear Olympic Program and the USGF Board of Directors.

tors.

Despite the climate and her other activities, Carrison Steves also has a full

di pr. Festival '99, which will be held in Chalserm this July.

Twock as a premotional speaker for the Olympic Festivaland as a marketing assistant which includes writing newis letters, articles, publicier vice arrouncements and many either promotional works," and Gardson-Boves

ietiers.articles, puriciservice arrouncements and meany other promotional works," used Cacrison-Steves She added, "I try to give minght from the arthory's perspective on how we conmake this U.S. Olympic Festival the most successful in history." She plans to fouch her communications degree in Augunt of 1949. She has

Oldahoma and then will be holding for the a case in marketing, communications are updes relations.

At the present time, most of the sixts in USCF sponsored clause have been filled Housever, if you are interested in the having Relly Garrison Steves conduct a clause, context bits for a 2412-25.

Committee for the United States Olym-

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East Stroudsburg University

versity Men's Gymnastics Team travelled to

petitions. Theorytems the nety to your the ewy of Lilen. Reparme, Monhorn, Kiel. Tunnendorf and Koln. Dur-

Included in the true were hudge Lee DePac, Anden Kesin Bussom, Michael An-Berry Viere

for the East Strondshore tition with a score of 209 20 to with 56.10 and Kevin Ran-The third and fired competition was in Kirl Kirl worth 200 10 Birst all-amound need to Caso and accord to Son-At the first connetition in som





City Of Pope Competition my Scherr and Kon

Zmeskal from Karoly I's Cympastics period Pope competition in Avirepresenting 11 countries perproperty in the March of '99

Zereskal placed first in the all against commentation with first on floor with a 9.90 bars with a 9.60 accord on been with a 9625, and sec-Second all-around went to Rolland Janey from Drance Scherr, 13, 10 from Cucur-

note CM and has been on the

support national team for three



consume here. It's no worsday. event. "Army is the bust her School is on 5th orader at Northland Christian School

Zmeskal, 13, is from Houston. TV and has only been on the autoor national team one year. She haven exemporary



Army Schere

in 1982 and her forcettle every is floor exercise. "Kim is the More Louis and Bela Bommel Middle School. She mission subtraction biking and

"It's good to see that we ing from behind. It shows Datour Inhum 1992 errmoarte and he way strong," said

Coaching Staff Named For U.S. Men's Team

callegate opporation coachand two new ristre coaching staff for the U.S. Representative 1969 World Championships. This major non-restriction small ber im Stuttenet West Germany on

the USGP's Men's Program Committee

Ioiston Menda on the coaching staff will be Ed. Turch of Albumprone NM and tree-time Clympion lim. USA Gymnastics May/few 1989

CVMVACUICS

Meads recently won the Award He is finishing up a versity. Meade's terms have

In 1968 Mondo was bend Olympies. Most recently be delegation at the 1988 Scool

Meade's first assistant, in surfor coach. He is the pertop-canked gymnast, 1968 Olympian Lance Ringrold youngest member of a U.S.

Hartung brings a hand of the 1000 and 1004 Chempio

docurated athletes un recent 1963 and while attending the 6 NCAA chempionahips.

the first time at the vs USSR a dual most with 29 - 30, in Columbus, Obt. at St John Areno, on the Ohio

Rowell and Knute Accord-

level," and Hitzel.

Thiasis Rhythmic Tournament he Thusas Khythmac This was the first interna-

France. Nine countries were represented in both nurser and serving compositions. Stal-In the surror division. Diverga Todorova placed first with a worn of 37.70.

news 10th, has leaven for Learth Rowell from the U.S. placed In the section division, first Blanceva from Bulgagia with a 37 90. The U.S. planet 2th.

in the senior drawing by Kristl Alt with a score of 15.85 Molly Krayer phond USA Compagies Mostley 1989 Bill Meade Receives Frank Cumiskey Award D ill Meade, gymnastits sity. His team won NCA/ Conch at Southern Hinous University in Carbonlected as the 1989 receptions of has produced more NCA/

honorto an andividual for his

as bend of the US gymnas contributions to the service tics delegation at the 1988 montal Program Mr. Frank

from its roots. He indowed with the present design, for-

"This is the highest award and in awarded

to an individual Program Administrator. these meets are the founds. "These expresses did well the ongoing

fare. They are palested excess Robert Cowner. for the U.S. year Ellen Nymesch Gemests Leach Olympian 341 Meade has coached gym-

mestics for 38 in Incloproville, FL. Alt. were spent ton, NI, Knuse is mached by coaching at Iron Vdovets from Elizani

the award at the lerver Olymmc National Champiorahios in Oshkosh, WL the last week

ESPN Schedule For The U.S. Challenge

be 1969 U.S. Cymnastics Challenge on March 30 - April 1, 1989 If you cest on ESPN as follows:

Priday 5/05/89 900 - 900 nm Priday 5/12/89 800 - 9:00 p.m Friday 5/19/89 800 - 900 p.m. Friday 5/26/89 800 - 900 p.m. 8.00 - 900 p.m. Priday 6/23/89 800 - 900 p.m. 800 - 900 p.m. 800 - 900 p.m. Friday 7/14/89

800 - 900 n m 8-00 - 9:00 p.m. Priday 8/11/89 8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Note: All times Fostern. All air dates /

subject to change until official nublica-

MDONALDS AMERICAN ĈĤP

DREAMS CAN COME TRUE



has is a lot heavier than it was in my dreams," said Brandy Johnson as she clutched the two feet tall silver McDonald's American Cup trophy.



Brandu Iohnson Captures The

Prestigious McDanald's

The deam American Johnson and Cup

couldn't have clear, as Brandy Vitali Marinich their victory cup.

McDonald's American Cup competition for three weeks straight." Brandy actually envisioned winning the competition and holding the trophy high above her head "I also pictured in my dream the Soviet me: it's really weigd how it actually



Tve dreamed about winning the happened that way," Brandy said, Starry-eved Johnson won the prestigious 1969 McDonald's American Cup competition with the highest all-around score in the history of the event - 39 649. Being the start of a new quadren-Union's evenuast standing next to nium, the 14th annual McDonald's

American Cup held in Fairfax, VA



portant competition. The competition, which has been televised annually for the past 14 years, pointed to petitors.

second with a 39,324 and Chelle Stack was third with a 39.261. Jurior Inlist Baneerter was in ninth place the pest represation of talented com- with a score of 36.70. Due to a rule that only two U.S. athletes can ad-After the preliminary round, the - vance to the final eight competition. U.S. women dominated the comme- Chelle Stack was smable to compete

tion besides Johnson and Mills were Olesva Dudnik (URS). Henriette Onodi (HUN), Mari Kosuze (IPN), Karme Mermet (FRA). Stella Umeh (CAN), and Diliana Vodenitcharova (BUL).

Continued on nove 26

USA Communities Mauflant 1989

tition Johnson led with an all-around in the final round

McDÓNALDS AMERICAN

BRANDY IOHNSON

denson out-performed them all. winning cour the Dudnik Johnson not only won the all-around title, but won three of the four events her best event - she doubtful that Brands was upset by not win-

during the Olympic Games However it's smile from our to our after the competition, especially when she

Brandy was defi-

nitely the crowd favorate with her new floor routine that made every person in the George Mason University's Patriot Center take notice. Her new music is Donna Summer's "Hot Stuff" and Brandy sure played the part. "My coach told me to so out and give em a show and that's what I tried to do," said Johnson. Her music and dance were not the only highlights of her floor routine - her strong tumbling consisted of a hillin back-out, round-off, whip, whip, flip flop, double back, and a double back dismount to earn her a 9.912 Johnson is coached by Keyin and

and that's what I tried to do " Rita Berrem of Berrem's Communics tory Tour (after the Olympics) ready in Alternante Springs, FL: "Brandy to train 100 percent for the came back from the Panasonic Vic-McDonald's American Cup. Ithink



watch - this motivated me to do well this "I also wanted to perove that my 10th

-My coach told me to go out and

give'em a show

Kevin Brown and Brandy both aggee that this competition has helped to prepare her for the World Championships, which are coming up in September

"It would be another dream come true if I won the World Championships," said Brandy

USA Cymnastics Mexillure 1981

placing high (10th) in the all-eround at the

Olympics brought her more maturity," said

Maturity, talent and

a dream may have all been factors in John-

son's win. She was

prepared, focused, and

did a great tob both in

preliminaries and finals Brandy said, "!

didn't know where I

competition because I

didn't know what to

expect from my com-

petitors. Last year I didn't make the finals and I had to sit and

place firmsh in Second

wasm't a fluke." Brandy added

She certainly proved that she

means business in the symmastics

arms and she also proped that the

belance beam could no longer make

her sit out of the competition. During

Johnson's demise was the balance

beam. This year Johnson won the

halance beam event with a score of

phy.

MdDÖNÄLDS AMERICAN CUP

COMPETITION

here were other stars on the women's competition Dudnik from the Soviet Union, scored 39 337 all-around - only 312 away from the all-around victory. Also, Hungary's petite Henmette Onodi placed third all-around with a score of 39.149 and Phoebe Mills from the U.S. placed fourth with a score of 38 986.

Perhaps she was a bit turity. shaky due to her

collision during the touch warm up on floor. Dudnik was in one corner and Japan's Mari Kosuze was in the opposite

corner when they both tumbled at the same time and collided. Fortunately but Dudnik did get a brossed

Dudeik is a 14 -war-old

of excellent gammages fouch as 1988 all-around Olympic champion Flora Shora Acceptant and will continue to be a top contender in future competitions

Dardrik's, floor, ross- you -- on floor she does round off time, 9.875, was also flap flop, whip, flip flop, full in back loaded with difficulty ... out a clean triple rulet and she fin a transand a half full ishes with a nike double back. She twist nunch front and a scored a 9.825 on floor. Although triple full for the last pass. her dance is not her strong point, this landing a little bit short. may come with age and more ma-



showed giant-sized talent

Hard working? Henriette did 13 fall bar routines in practice the day before the competition. Maybe that's how she scored a 9.812. When asked what her favorite event is, she said

year-old Henriette Onoch from Hungary: small, hard-work-Due to Henriette's young age (14) ing and talented. Onodi finshe was not able to compete in the 1988 Olympic Games. However, she may be the evernast to watch in the

next four years. She captured the hearts of the audience, especially small, easer children who clamored

OLESYA DUDNIK

udnik had an amazine'v difficult beam routine using a round off layout mount, a com), side aerial, layout, layout and triple full dismount. She placed secand on beam with a 9,875 behind lohnson's 9.937 Aithough she had the most difficulty, she was not as polished as Brandy - with minor



Oleysa Dudnik went on to perform USA Cymnastics Mauliuse 1989

ished south in the 1987 McDonald's American Cup and at the time was 4'0" and weighed 56 lbs. She increased not only berplaces other year. but also her size. She firrished third. grow to 49" and weighed 66 lbs. for her autograph after the competi-

hree words characterize 14-

McDÖNÁLDS AMERICAN CHP

PHOEBE MILLS

fills the of the McDroold's American Cup, came in fourthall-around after falling off the balance beam on a flup flop, flip floo, layout stepout and scored

only a 9.387. Before the competition Phoebe said "During this mest.I'm looking competitive

shape and see where I stand since I haven't competed since Phoebe has a new floor routine - no more Ad-

dam's Family music: Mills said. "I needed something different - more mature music that's not so cutse." Phoche's first commetition with her near floor routine corned her a 9.887

Phoebe is also one inch taller and inconcerns because some the Olymrece in Securit. She said. "Reine taller and a little bearing makes it barder when wee're filmrene "

Phoebe said she has been spending a great deal of time on the new compulsories and less time on learning new tricks.

Phoche Mill's results were not high enough to vault the

defending champion onto the victory stand.

"This meet us a very good indication to test routines. Phoche had a longer vacation than usual before coming back to train. She came back in lanuary and we've worked routines for only two months,"

CHELLE STACK

nother Bela Karolyi gymnast one should not overlook is Chelle Stack. She, too, has an upgraded floor routine to 'Rebel Rouser," a '50's rock-n-roll Bela Karolyi, Phoebe's coach, said, but "I like at because it's fun for me-



and for the audience to watch," said Stack. The radges must have liked it too, because she scored a 9 862 on Bela said. "I believe the McDonald's American Cup compe-

tition opened up Phoebe's and Chelle's appetites again."

FINAL EIGHT COMPETITORS ther competitors that

finished in the top cight were 38.961 from Canada; sorth allaround Mari Kosuce - 38 875 elebth all-around Dilliana Voylanitchamora - 36 649 from

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McDÓNALÓS AMERICAN

MEN'S COMPETITION

he men's field of competition for the 1989 McDonald's American Cup was reminiscent of past "Cup" commetitions due to the bigh level of difficulty seen throughout Robert Cowan, Men's Program Administrator, said. "We says a number of original skills and the level of difficulty was excellent." Of the 18 men in the event, 12

were 1988 Olympians and the comnetitive denth of the men was seen in both preliminaries and finals. The fact that there were so many past Olympians and original skills percan Cup is remarkable since the Olympic Games ended only a few months ago. These competitors have been working extremely hard, not only learning the new compulsories, but new optional skills as well-Competition was steep. In fact, the variance in preliminaries from first to eight places (which was a two way tie) was only .80 and the difference between third and eighth was only 35. "Overall the tudeine was very consistent and fairly conserva-

tive," said Cowan, At the start of the competition, the men's technical director. Gary Alexander, was asked, "Who do you predict to win the 1989 McDonald's American Cup competition?" Alexander said. "Lance Ringrald or Itals's fury Chechi could win because their both seasoned, international competitors. Vitali Marinich, the Soviet sympast, could take the title or the Chinese gymnast, Li Jing, 15



VITALI MARINICH

grant half to support, stuty hand and

Being only a juntor, Marintch was he Soviet Urson's Marinich unable to compete in the 1988 Olymdominated the men's finals ps: Games. He said, "It's very hard competition throughout each to make the Soviet Union Olympic round winning with an all-Team. There are so many good gymnasts." Marinich said he is rated around score of 58.20. The U.S.'s

Lance Ringroald tried to surpass Mar-Inich but had a fall on pommel horse ranks and hopes to make the 1992 which widened the scores. Ring-Olympic Team. nald placed second all-around with "How important was this compe-57.80 and, not far behind, was the btion to your gymnastics career?" U.S.'s Patrick Kirksey with a 57.30. Marinich did a very innovative ence for the future."

tucked double

and difficult floor routine using a Soviet Olympic legend, Nikolai beautiful double levout, layout ara-Andriancy, said, "The Soviet Unbian one and three-quarters, handion's Gymnastics Committee sesuring one and three-counters and a lected Marinich to compete in the tucked double dismount. He scored McDonald's American Cun compe-9.1 during proliminaries and 9.6 fition because they're planning to during finals. He also had an excelmake him a World and Olympic first place in finals with Lance Ring-"Asked if he was the gymnast nald who also scored a 9.80 Marinfrom the Scoret Union, to watch out ich does a elide reverse cut cast half. for, Marinich said, "I would like to

He replied, "It will make a differ-

always good."

McDÖNÅLDS AMERICAN CUP

COMPETITION

fter the preliminary round of competition. Vitali a score of 57.00 Allionso Rodriguez from Spain and the U.S.'s Lance Ringnald were and with a 56 850. The other five competitors who were able to advance to the final competition were: Jury Chechs (ITA) with a 56 650; 56.450; Andre Hempel (GDR) with a 56 300; Li ling (CHN) with a 56250; and Makoto Athara (IPN) with a 56,200.

ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ

uring the proliminary round. Rodriguez did an exciture exercise on lizeh bar with a one arm thachey, nice inverts and a triple back dismount. He was leading by 4 econe into the last event, which is his best event, both ber. However, he missed a release

- less together tkachev and honerextended his elbow - which caused Pittion.

him to scratch from the final compe-Rodriguez placed 10th allianound during the 1987 McDonald's American Cup and certainly had a shot at

grip-up on the competition. the mediminary round and could not

Winning the silver medal in the all-around, Lance Ringrald had a LANCE RINGNALD compete in finals. He attends House ton Bantist University and is coached ance Ringnald was pleased Rodriguez was perimistic and

with his performance. After sad, 'I'm looking forward to my the preliminary competition be fourth World Championships com-I said. "Tomorrow I won't change anything but I'll concentrate

Mdonalds American Cup

on my errors and try to cornort them." He added The Soviet eventual competes very well? Ringraid used a new dis-

mount off pommel horse

- a back pike. However, he got into trouble during the pommel set and almost sat with a form break on a handstand somemon. He scored a 9,350, which cost him the all-around title. Ringrald won high bar with a 9 80 and placed secand on still rines with a score of 9 650

PATRICK KIRKSEY



Kirkney is a turney at the Univer-

atrick Kirksey is another this' competitor who defice tradition by working

so well on events which are unnelly thought of as fittle' men's events," said Cowan. On floor he does a skychish fullian backcout, a stretched front full, a full twisting side somersoult and dismounts with a tucked double. He took a step on the dismount to make his score a Pinopald and Marinich

"Pay's coutine is full of originality and well-everyted skills," said

Kirksey tied for third on pommel horse with a 9,550 alone with Li Tine Kirksey said. 'T'm very happy

with third all-around. I hit all six events vesterday and today, with make trees seemen seemen (

to make the 1992 Olympic Team.

sity of Nebraska and is coached by Francis Allen and Jim Howard. He deducated last year to learning the new compulsories instead of workare toward making the 1968 Ohrmpic Team. Kirkury's ultimate poal is

DIMITAR TASKOV pleasin's Dississe Tooken

found out the morning of the finals competition that he was competing and not watching the finale commetition. Chickently Toology did not make the final round becomes he alread sinth in the neeliminary competition and only the top early advance to finals. How-

ever Rodriguez scratched due to an elbore injury and Taskov was the next in line to compete Taskow diche's let lock of montal

premaration hunder his performances. In fact, he competed better in finals than he did in preliminaries scoring a 57.250 all-around senses parses. Taskov placed fourth allaround, second on commel boose. and fied for second on high bar not a had day for a guy who thought competition.



FINAL EIGHT

ther competitors that placed in the top eight were: fifth all-around 13 line, 57,200. from China: sixth all-around htry Checht, 56 650, from Italy, sey enth all-around Andre Hempel, 56,590, from German Democratic Republic and eighth alkerment Makero Ashara 56400 from January

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BY SUSAN POLAKOFF

Karolyi's Little

"Rebel Rouser.

Chelle Stack

placing Bela Karulyi and all of his gymnasts around the balance beam for a photo. With Karolyi in the middle, the photographer asked for two "of the smallest eirls" to pose on the beam by When the photographer placked Chelle Stack from the erroup. Coach

Gymnastics Champs-

onships in Houston, Texas, a photographer

from USA TODAY was

Karolyi growled with a grin. With little Chelle now practically sitting on her coach's shoulder. Karolyi schined at the photographer, "Not her...don't put her by me. . .that little sucker will bite me!" Amid the pipeles from the group, that is

She bit the coach from Transy not on the neck, but on the ear.



Carroll Michelle Stack isn't airaid of much. She's not even afraid to playfully bits someone's ear who is about three times her saze. Stack, IS, who was the youngest women on the 1988 Olympor Team, seems fearless in sur alwayt even area she six.

Stack first surprised U.S. audiences during the 1988 McDonald's American Cup where she finished third sill-around. Four mombs later, Stack became the national uneven bars champion at age 14. She also finished fourth in the all-around at Houston and later this summer, placed fifth all-around at Olympic

At meets, sorrited Chelle can often be seen with a can of silly string in hand, a ward of hubble gum in her mouth, bopoing to the nearest shopnine mall "Pm probably more enthusiastic than most. Everybody is different but I'm correctle and fun and really up. If you're down it will affect your performance. My attutrade helps my expanastics "she said Chelle's attitude carried her through some disconsisting moments in Social After the U.S. wroner's team realized their 5 penalty electricing would problem them. said yery matter-of-factly, "Wellguys, we almost out 'em "

liven though a bronze medal support through her fingers, voques Chelle did not dwell on what almost became an international incident. Unfortunately, Chelle elipped off unwere bars during her compulsory be routine, but seemed unphased by all. "If it could have done asy-thing, different at the Okympies, I would have alwayed on burs," who said stack believes since-the-was up corn with the country in the routeso, alle was trying to make up for her placement. "It was just trying on her and art did dark as just trying on her and art did dark as just trying on her and art did dark on her alle the contractions."

"The Olympics was not like I

thought it was going to be. The

Olympics in Los Angeles seemed so
to different liteemed like stills there
is had so much U.S. support behind
them Weddon't have much support
to behind us in Seoul. Korea is a really
to different place," Stack said

began at age two when her mother escolled her in ballot class. "I really don't remember that," she said. "I dropped it because it was boring But I do remember my first gymnastics meet when I was a Class IV in Penneytyania."

Born in Endicott, NY, on July 23, 1973, Chelle spent three years in Pennsylvania before moving to Houston "Mydad was getting transferred and I wanted to go to Karolyr's, so it all worked out," she said.



According to Chelle, her father, Frank, works in Dellas at Boeing and is able to see his daughter "about every two weeks" Chelle, her morn Carol, and brother Paul, 19, live in

Houseign.

"My mom and brother are going to open up a pet store called Tel & Things, Chelheadd. "They are going to have reptiles, snakes, alligators and loss of fish. My brother has wanted to do this forever and my mom finally gave in. Now all my friends want jobs there," she laughed. There is something Chelle wants

tockin' r Rollin'

roved her

routine was a

big hit!

that is no laughing matter. "I want to win I haven't done that yet," she said. "I want to place first at the U.S. Championships. 1 want this year to be my winning

Focused on U.S. Championships and the '89 World Championshins. Chelle says she has not decided how

lone she'll remain with the sport T'm rest thinking about the Worlds right year " she said Stack says Coach Karolisi stasse his team a "pen talk for the next four years " but save also is taking one

know what is going to happen." "Even though i only freshed third in this year's McClonald's American Cup. Pro still pleased with my purformance Theat must be proved access from 1984. I have to concentrate on point on beam where I am on bars

and floor " Known as a powerful quick turnbler, especially considering her size (49° and 78 lbs.), Chelle does turn- ended with a double back. Chelle bling passes with multiple skills. Her doesn't have many slow parts to her first pass at the McDonald's Ameri-routine. In fact, she never slows can Cup was round off, double full, three file floos to a double back. Her second pass - round off, flip flop,

to win

I haven't

done that

yet."

the end of her routine

Grandand corneday " she added Besides listening to early rock and noll Challe private collecting

corporate her love of 1990's rockn-roll music. "Sometimes I think I should be solven been in the '80's or must have been there in another life because I love everything about the 50's Lesnerially love the skirts pirks wore and the music... and you could out a Coke for a mickel?" When Chelle unveiled her new floor routine to the tune of "Rebel

Rosser" at the '89 American Cunthe crossel clarged along with her "It's a fun routine for me and fun for the audience to watch "

While Intenier to her parent's old records. Chelle found "Rebel Rouser" and Bleed it. "I wanted to use 'Rockin' Robin' but it has words If I could find Sulbonic Rock' or Figured Door's eithout woods Turould van therm for my floor movie because I maily bior libris I would like to visit

dolls and key chains. Like most teens, shopping is also a high priority, as are movies. To no one's sur-And, to no one's surprise, this comdown until she salutes the sudge at pact bundle of energy has the determination and spirit to accomplish Chelle's floor routine was rewhat she wants. Chelle Stack's double back (layout/pike). She wamped at the beginning of 1989 to "bark" as NOT biggger than her bote



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McDONALD'S INTERNATIONAL MIXED PAIRS

THE WINNING COMBINATION By Luan Peszek

at the 7969 Mixed Pairs Corr-U.S.'s Wendy Bruce China The competition was held in Industry die Filon







atrungest events in order to score the highest combined total points to win. Countries not having both a male and female proposentative were randomly paired, which is exactly what happened with Wordy Bruce and La Time. Brace chose to start on world and Imo rounded competition, the lone with pain advance to the second round. They included: Ofessa Dudnik and Vitali Mannech from the Sower Descript SERV

Bruce and Li ling (19.425); Phoebe Mills and Patnes Kirlowy from the U.S. (19 400); Chelle Stock and Wes Suter from the U.S. (19 400), Juliet Banaerter from the U.S. and her parener, Pedro Toet from Puerto Rico (19.250), Henriette Onodi and Zsoit Horvath from Hungary (19) 22%: Karing Moreov and Stephane Cauterman from France (19 175) and Stella Umob and Lorne Bobkin from Casada (19.190). After the second round of competifrom thard all-around to first all-around with a saver of 38.90. They were followed by Bruce and Ting with a 38.70 and Stock and Soter in third place with

placed Dudrik and Marrisch beith round of competition Unfortunately, Kirksey and Marinsch both had a fall on pomusel horse scoring a 9.0 and a 8.95 respectively. Mills said, "Painck and I just wanted to pout and do the best routines we could. first round. It was surprising because Johnson took first, and Reserved second can Cup only four days before the vault and she scored a 9.875 Ringsald

had a comple of breaks in his pensiled but routine and only secret 9.35. They learned at only takes one mostake, from "The McDonald's International of pucy from more standard internafional competitions," and Mike locks executive director of the U.S. Gymnas-This competition involves strategy in order to advance to the next round. And

this year. Wendy Brace and Li hise had the winning combination.





WONDER

BY LUAN PESZEK

McDonald's International Mixed Pairs competition.

Coach. Francis Allen thinks Patrick Kirksey has proved to be a strong competitor

rick Kirksey, who is 5'10' tall, is one of the newest talents to surface at the top of the U.S. men's national program. Kirksey, who has limited experience in international competitions, did exceptionally well at the 1989 McDonald's American Cup. This prestigious competition was host to gymnasts from seventeen countries, including the Soviet Union. Kirksey placed third all-around and four days later, Kirksey again placed

Kirksey was very happy with his hird place firmsh at the "Cup". "That all six routines in both preliminaries and finals, with only two minor third all-around with his partner, Phoebe Mills, in the breaks," said Kirksey. One of his breaks occurred when he overshot a back toss on parallel bars, a problem



that can be easily resolved.

However, he was not as happy with his performance at the "Moved Pairs", "Idiadn't do as well as I could have on the pommel horse," said Kirksey.

"Ibada lot of fun on the trin, nothe.

Cup and Mixed Pairs. Even though you couldn't speak some of the competitors Imguage, you communicated with them nonverbally. It was great meeting all of them," said Kirksey: Francis Allen, coach at the Uni-

ngh versity of Nebraska seid, "This was ompatrick's first real international test, uniwas Allen thinks that Patrick's positive stitude as one reason for his gyunnatics success.

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school and reorine a mandegree Of course, he'll University of Nebraska and bridge with him coaches. Al-His hob-

len and lim Howard. bies outside of evanastics are reading water skung.

working with

Kieksey's lifelong dream is to make computers and masterine difficult tonene twisters. Kirksey's hometown is Tucker. GA. "I decided to go to the University of Nebraska because Keyin Davis

went there, and we were teammates when we were vouncer," said Patrick has a great deal of family support. "There's no way I could have exeten as far as I have without my family's support," said Kirksey He has two younger sisters and one

older brother. All three are competitive swimmers. Patrick also was a swimmer in his younger years-He became interested in gymnastics when one day, while at the pool, he wandered across the street to a

gymnastics club. He was intrigued with evenuatics and began taking lessons. He also played baseball and soccer, but realized that he should concentrate on one sport instead of four. "I freured that I could so farther in evenuestics and I wanted to get a scholarship to college," said

Well, it certainly seems that Pat-

brasks. Patrick's major is finance, rick has found his niche -- gymnas-He plans to continue his education ties. He began eyemastics in 1976 on the senior one year. Pan-

Howas the Class I No. for year of high school He competed in the 1988 Romania International Invitational competition and placed fifth all-

around. the '92 Olympic Team. cently. competed in the 1988 Winter Nationals in Colorado Sprines, CO where he placed third all-around "My lifetone dream is to make the 92 Olympic Team," said Kirksey. His short term goal is to help the University of Nebraska win another NCAA Championship. 'Talso want to do well individually - but the

two on hand-in-hand. If I do well updividually. I will be belying the team," Kirksey added. Some of the toughest competitors in the NCAA Champtonship, according to Kirksey are Alfonso Rodriguez from Houston Baptist University, Dominick Minicocci and David Zeddies from the University of Illinois

"If I want to do well at the competition. I've got to hit 12 for 12 routines," said Kirksey. The NCAA Championship com-

petition will be held in Lincoln. Nebraska on April 13 - 15

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